



California Dream Act Application **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** for Financial Aid Administrators



GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Are students able to complete the 2014/15 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION now?

A: The 2014/15 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION will be available online January 6, 2014. The paper application will be available to download and mail January 6, 2014. To ensure faster processing time, we highly recommend students complete the online application.

CAL ISIR

Q: Will we have access to previous Cal ISIR information?

A: Yes, the institution will have access to previous Cal ISIR transaction.

Cal ISIR Reports

Q: Why are there two different Cal ISIR reports?

A: The California Dream Act Initial ISIR report reflects the data on the initial CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. The new California Dream Act Correction ISIR report reflects updated data made to the initial ISIR.

CORRECTION ISIR REPORT

Q: Will the correction ISIR report only reflect FA Administrators corrections from WebGrants or all transactions corrected after the first transaction regardless of who made the correction (student or FAA)?

A: The Correction Cal ISIR is an exact duplicate of the application. It will reflect what changes were done and indicate whether it was done by the student or FAA.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

Q: If a student has a SSN issued by DACA can that student register for Selective Service online?

A: Unlike the FAFSA, the DACA does not verify Selective Service Registration. As a requirement for the Cal Grant Program male students between the ages of 18 to 25 must register with Selective Service. A social security number is not required to register, but if the student does not have one, they are unable to register online. Students can obtain the Selective Service Form from the post office or download it from the caldreamact.org website. Students will receive a postcard with the Selective Service Registration confirmation number by mail. Students should make a copy for their records and the other will serve as proof of registration for the school or university.

Q: Can the student use their DACA issued SSN number to complete the Dream Application?

A: If the student has been issued a SSN through DACA, the student should complete a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. There will be questions on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION where the student can provide the DACA SSN.

DREAM APPLICATION CORRECTIONS

Q: Why can't the student change (correct) their name and date of birth on their application?

A: This information is part of the permanent data on the application. If the student has made an error, the student can download the Name/Date of Birth Change Request form from http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp and submit to the Commission.

PARENTS ITIN

Q: Why is the Commission asking for the parents ITIN?

A: Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) are issued by the Internal Revenue Service regardless of the immigration status. Some parents of Dream Applicants use ITINs to file taxes. The Commission will not share this information with other agencies or organizations.

PARENT PIN

Q: Does the parent need a valid social security number to get a Personal Identification Number (PIN) and sign the application electronically?

A: No. A valid social security is not required to obtain a PIN and sign the application.

Q: Will the parent need a new PIN for each child?

A: The PIN is unique for each child. If the student has any siblings, the parent must obtain a PIN for each child. The PIN will remain the same over the years and may be used to sign renewal applications.

REPORTING INCOME -UNMARRIED PARENTS LIVING TOGETHER

Q. For unmarried parents living together, should the student report the income for both parents?

A: Yes. Dependent students are required to include the income of both parents.

REPORTING PARENTS INCOME

Q: Does the application have sections for both unmarried parents (not living together) to provide income?

A: Students should answer the questions about the parent they lived with more during the 12 months preceding the date they complete the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. If they did not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support during the 12 months preceding the date they complete the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, or during the most recent year that they actually received support from a parent.

Q: What is the guidance when a student says their parents were paid in cash? The parents do not know the exact amount of money they have been paid for the year and the parents will not be filing taxes?

A: If the parent or student did not file a tax return, their earnings from work must be reported on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. Estimates may be made if students or parents are unsure of the exact amount of money earned. In the event the application is selected by the school for verification, the parent or student may be required to file taxes if they meet the filing threshold.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Q: Must schools verify selective service registration for all males or just the 20% selected by the Commission?

A: As outlined in the Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA), prior to disbursements of Cal Grant funds the school is responsible for verifying the student has met all requirements to receive a Cal Grant award. Schools should verify that males between the ages of 18-25 are registered for Selective Service. In addition, students that are part of the 20% verification selection should also be verified prior to any disbursements.

STUDENT PIN

Q: Once a student has applied for a PIN, how long will it take for the student to receive their PIN?

A: Students completing a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION are not issued a PIN. Students can simply sign their CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION in the signature tab of the application.

TIMER

Q: What is the purpose of the timer?

A: The timer is a security feature. This is to protect the student's confidential information in the case they are using a shared or public computer and walks away without exiting the application.

Q: What happens if the timer runs out?

A: Students have 30 minutes to complete the application, but if they need more time, they can press the green Save Application button to reset the timer to 30 minutes and so on. Once the timer gets down to the two minute mark, a pop- up will appear to remind students to save their application for more time. If they do not click on the Save Application button, the timer will time out and the information not saved will be lost and as a safety feature, the student will automatically be logged out of the application.

UPDATING INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION

Q: For those that will file a tax return, must tax updates be done prior to the March 2nd deadline?

A: The Verified GPA and the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION must be submitted by the March 2nd deadline. The student will be able to go back into their application once submitted and update data in the application. As a reminder for Dependent students, each time information is updated within their CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, the parent signature must be resubmitted. If the signature is not provided when the application is updated, the application will be placed in a hold/unprocessed" status.

VERIFICATION

Q: If a student has been selected for verification, are we required to verify the same items as a student who was selected under the Title IV Federal Verification Group?

A: Yes, use the same verification process that you currently use for students that have completed a FAFSA and selected under the V1 group.